

Over 600 Law Enforcement Officials Meet at the Crossroads

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

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J. David Donahue,
Commissioner



Indianapolis, Indiana - (September 11, 2006) - The National Major Gang Task Force, with support from the Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana State Police, kicked off its 12th Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 600 law enforcement officials, from over 51 jurisdictions covering 27 states, as well as Puerto Rico were in attendance.

Opening session keynote speakers included Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, Honorable Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice of Indiana and Edward Cohn, Executive Director of the National Major Gang Task Force and Dr. Paul Whitesell, Ph.D, Superintendent, Indiana State Police.

“The three-day conference is an excellent forum for local, national and international law enforcement officials to partner together in a common effort. Attending this National training conference provides opportunities to be updated on current trends, programs, and other facts about gangs and security threat groups,” said Commissioner J. David Donahue.

Conference workshops include sessions on New Intelligence, Gangs In the Streets and In the Prisons, Corrections and Terrorism, Gang Tattoos, Crisis Management, Interview Techniques, Officer Safety STG Management, Bullying and School Security.

"As a society we must examine the root causes that force our young people toward gang life and offer meaningful and fulfilling alternatives. To help with this effort, our courts and the entire legal system must be creative and pro-active,” said keynote speaker, Honorable Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice of Indiana.

“To improve public safety, agencies and organizations should have a formal policy dealing with the presence of gangs and policing of gang activity, whether it is on the streets or in prisons and juvenile detention facilities. All employees in these organizations should be made aware of gang and security threat groups so they know how to respond effectively when dealing with this problem,” added Donahue.

“The Indiana Department of Correction has taken the lead on promoting public safety within its prison communities under Commissioner Donahue’s leadership. This conference allows for education and training in the fundamental philosophies of the many security threat groups across the nation,” said Edward Cohn. “It’s great to see a national presence of law enforcement entities at this conference eager to implement new tactics in addressing gangs.”



About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers.

The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.